

Don't forget to sign in at the back of the room.

New-Comers, please use the black notebook. Returning neighbors, please use the red notebook.

* Please review and be prepared to recommend any amendments to our previous Minutes.

** Please note that numbers in parentheses denote the time in minutes allotted for that topic. "QA" denotes the time allotted for follow-up question and answer. These times may be adjusted by the Chairman as needed.

PROGRAM

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Regular Meeting, March 9th, 2005

7:00	Call to Order and Flag Salute		Priorities
	Roll Call (sign in sheet)		
	Welcome Newcomers and Guests (5)**	Ken McAlpine	#6
	Flag Salute (2)	Ken McAlpine	
7:10	Executive Committee Reports		
	Treasurer's Report (written)	Robin Meares	
	Correspondence Report (written)	Louise Clarke Stone	
	Minutes* (2)	Ava Wrightsman	
7:10	First Public Comment (15)		
	Transit Shelters (2)	Cindy Cleghorn	
7:25	Committee Reports		
	DAC (4)	John LaRocca	#1,4
	Ford Property (2)	Debby Beck	#1.4
	Floor Area Ratio (FAR) (3)	Roberta Actor-Thomas	#1
	Home Depot (3)	Richard Pozzo	#1,4
	Planning (5+5QA)	Dale Thrush	#1,3,4
	Safety (2)	Nina Royal	#2
	Crime Statistics (3QA)	Julie Carpenter/Larry Martinez	#2
	Outreach (2)	Mona Curry	#6
	Sunland-Tujunga Vision 2020 (3)	Julianne Maurseth	#1-6
8:00	Program Speakers (40)		
	L.A. Commons – Public Art (10+10QA)	Karen Mack	#1
	Transit Shelters (10+10QA)	Guillermo Gonzalez, BOSS Rep	
8:40	New Business (40)		
	1) MOTION: Support DWP M.O.U. (5)	Louise Clarke Stone	
	2) MOTION: Support Transit Shelter Installations (5)	Robin Meares	
	3) MOTION: Home Dep. Press Conf./NC Coalition (5)	Nina Royal	
	4) MOTION: Cosponsor Fireworks (POSTPONED)	Jim Moore	
	5) MOTION: Canyon Hills Letter (10)	Julianne Maurseth	
	6) MOTION: DAC Appointments (5)	John LaRocca	
9:20	Second Public Comment (5)		
	Chairman's Reminders		
9:25	Adjournment of Board Business		

Mark your calendar for these upcoming STNC meetings:

Outreach	Sat. Mar. 12 @ 8:30 am - Denny's
DAC	Mon. Mar. 21 @ 7:00 pm - Muni Bldg.
Strategic Planning	Tue. Mar. 22 @ 7:00 pm - Muni Bldg.
S-T Vision 2020 Steering	Wed. Mar. 30 @ 7:00 pm - Muni bldg
Board Retreat	Sat. Apr. 2 @ 9:00 am - TBD
Agenda (EC)	Wed. Apr. 6 @ 7:00 pm - Muni Bldg.
DAC	Mon. Apr. 11 @ 7:00 pm - Muni Bldg.
STNC Regular Meeting	Wed. Apr. 13 @ 7:00 pm - Mt. Gleason School
	Program: Sunland-Tujunga Vision 20/20 & Healthful Urban Design (Dr. Neal Kaufman)

Please email proposed agenda items, future topics or issues to: AvaWrightsman@hotmail.com

www.SunlandTujunga.org/council

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
STRATEGIC PLAN - 2004-2005**

STNC MISSION: Improving the Quality of Life in Sunland-Tujunga.

STNC PRIORITIES: The following Priorities reflect the Community Survey results from June 2004. Priorities have been grouped and synthesized from the original 10 Goal categories, to target the Community's major strategic needs.

For Strategic Plan details, see:

pp. 2-3

Priority #1: Improve Community Appearance

Priority #2: Improve Safety & Crime Prevention

Priority #3: Preserve Scenic Beauty & Ecological Protections

Priority #4: Improve Quality & Vitality of Our Business Districts

Priority #5: Promote & Celebrate Our Cultural Resources

Priority #6: Strengthen Outreach Response for Long-Term Health of Community Relations

p. 4

p. 5

pp. 6-7

p 7.

p. 8

KEY STRATEGIES for success of ALL Priorities & Goals:

1. Invite and motivate others to join our 15-year "Sunland-Tujunga Vision 2020" -- to become a "model Community" in Los Angeles on how to revitalize, innovate and adapt to change while enhancing our unique Community culture and values.
2. Promote and maintain a collaborative STNC Board, proactive outreach with all Community stakeholders, and partnership with our District 2 office.
3. Build key relationships with City departments, and create buy-in at each stage. Work through resistance, not against it.
4. Measure and reward progress - hold Community celebrations for milestones achieved together.
5. Stay the course with patience for the long-term Vision while achieving short-term goals.

March 9, 2005

STNC Motions to be presented

#1 - Support DWP M.O.U. (Louise Clarke Stone)

Motion: I, Louise Clarke Stone, as STNC liaison to the NC/DWP Task Force, move that this council declare our intention to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

#2 - Support Transit Shelter Installations (Robin Meares)

Motion: I move that the STNC support the installation of ten Transit Shelters by Viacom/JC Decaux tentatively scheduled for the following Bus Stop locations:

WB Foothill NS Oro Vista	NE Corner
EB Foothill FS Fenwick St	SE Corner
WB Sunland NS Fenwick St	NE Corner
WB Foothill NS Saluda Ave	NE Corner
EB Foothill FS Tujunga Cyn	SE Corner
EB Foothill FS Pinewood Ave	SE Corner
WB Foothill NS Pali (Island)	NE Corner
EB Foothill FS Pali	SE Corner
WB Foothill NS Pinewood	NE Corner
WB Foothill NS Mt Gleason	NE Corner

95% of those installed will be the Boulevard Shelter types. They will

be installed at no cost to the City. Our Council District will share in the revenues of the advertising. The maintenance will be the responsibility of Viacom/JC Decaux.

I further move that our approval is contingent upon approval of final locations of transit shelters and the opportunity to suggest design changes.

#3 Home Depot/NC Coalition (Nina Royal)

1. To hold a press conference sometime within the next 30-days in opposing the proposed Home Depot on the old K-mart site.

Notes: Help was promised by Councilmember Wendy Greuel at her coffee meeting at Glendale Bakery. She committed her presence and support at a media conference showing her support for opposition to Home Depot on the K-Mart site, in support of the STNC and community's stand on this issue.

2. That the STNC form a planning group coalition with Chatsworth, Granada Hills, Mission Hills, Northridge, Sylmar and Foothills Trails District and any other Neighborhood Councils interested to challenge the City; that voters demand that they stick to community plans and ordinances that are presently in place to protect open space. Also, to insure that our infrastructure is up to par before allowing further major development. Also, to assure that they listen, resolve and act on the concerns of our communities. Also that we elect or appoint representatives to that coalition from the STNC.

#4 - Co-Sponsor Fireworks with S-T Chamber (Postponed)

#5 Canyon Hills letter (Julianne Maurseth)

Motion to approve draft letter to L.A. City Planning Commission.

#6 DAC Appointments (any board member)

Motion: By: _____ to accept the recommendation of the Design Advisory Committee, the following members of the DAC: John LaRocca as Committee Chair, Cindy Cleghorn, Penny Blackwell, Roberta Actor-Thomas, Debby Beck, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Deborah Ray, Julianne Maurseth, Lloyd Hitt, Mark Seigel, Richard Pozzo, with Alternates Shelly Albert, Don Breeding, Ed Duke, Ed Rock.

Minutes
Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
February 9, 2005
Mt. Gleason Middle School – 7 PM

Monthly board meeting of the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council was called to order by Chairman, Ken McAlpine at 7:02 PM with 20 Board members in attendance. 84 in the audience.

Ken McAlpine welcomed newcomers and guests.

The flag salute was lead by Boy Scout Troop 315.

Retiring 2004 board members were presented with certificates on behalf of Michael Antonovich's office.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer: Robin Meares gave an update on the budget versus actual spending for fiscal year ending July 2005. She reported that there is currently \$8,527.32 of remaining funds for this fiscal year.

Correspondence: No report was given.

Minutes of December 12 January 2005 were approved as presented.

Program Speaker: Laura Chick, City Controller

Laura Chick described her position as the City's chief auditor and chief accountant. She is responsible for audits and reforms in the City Council. She described herself as a taxpayer watchdog. She is making an effort to improve city services, by exposing and eliminating waste and fraud. She went over the details of various audits that she has done and their results. She stated that anyone can access all of that data by going to her website at <http://www.ci.la.ca.us/ctr/>. Ms. Chick recommended that people read the cover letter and the executive summary to get a picture of what was found.

Ms. Chick acknowledged the hard work done by Councilmember Wendy Greuel and Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski to enact an ethics ordinance. This ordinance states that Commissioners appointed by the Mayor can no longer raise money from people with whom they are interacting on a professional level as Commissioners.

There was a period of question and answer wherein it was announced that Ms. Chick plans to do an audit of the Planning Department and what that audit will entail. She also announced that if a City Councilmember receives five to eight to ten emails/calls/letters that are not form letters, their attention would be gotten on that topic. She announced that all purchasing is centralized except by Proprietaries. The only negative to this method of purchasing is that only the large companies get the City's business, but it does save

taxpayer dollars. If there is a specific concern that isn't being resolved, it is possible to email the essential facts of the matter to Ms. Chick for her review and possible help or guidance. The new transit bus shelters proposal was mentioned and Ms. Chick stated that she would look into the situation and find out what is broken about it, since it is taking too long.

Board Reports:

DWP: Louise Clarke Stone reported that the DWP MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is still in progress and she is now working with Ron Deaton, the third general manager of the DWP since the process began. She described what an MOU is. Louise stated that the following two issues inserted in the MOU by the DWP are not acceptable: 1) The DWP would like the MOU to not be precedent setting. 2) The DWP would like Neighborhood Council's to not take public positions on DWP rate hikes.

Fireworks: Jim Moore, Business Representative and President of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, announced that the Chamber is planning the 5th annual 4th of July fireworks in the park and that funding for this is needed. He also announced some upcoming community events.

Public Comments:

The following announcements were made:

- The Arts and Culture Calendar is at the back of the room. Debby Beck asked that people email her with events to put on the Arts and Culture Calendar.
- The 10th annual Historic Home Tour will be May 1st. People were invited to volunteer their homes to be a part of the tour.
- Kiwanis is a humanitarian club providing service to the community. New members were invited to join. Invitation letters were at the back of the room.
- STABLE (Sunland Tujunga Association for a Better Living Environment) is looking for volunteers to train as tutors in the library and schools.
- It was requested that people tell Office Depot what school they would like to support when they make purchases so that 5% of their purchases will go to that school. A garden clean up was scheduled to be held at Mt. Gleason School.
- The following day would be the first day that FEMA would be open at North Hollywood Park to help those who had damaged property from the flood. FEMA was scheduled to be open for one week.
- A White Bird meeting was announced for February 24th at the Planning Commission. A description of the White Bird proposal was given.
- The Coffee Stop is now open and offering free hot chocolate for children, with purchase, from 6pm to 8pm. They are willing to do fundraisers for local groups.
- A man announced that he was present for the Valley Hertzberg Campaign.
- The Rotary Club is producing the new community paper. They are looking for human-interest stories and what local clubs are doing. Email information and stories to editor@TheFoothillsPaper.com. Anyone with questions can go to Deja View Photography and ask for Michael Lucas.
- Communication is needed to local officials regarding the Floor Area Ratio, Interim Control Ordinance, which was passed on 27 January 2005 as the Clerk still has to write the report.

Committee Reports:

Safety/Crime Statistics: Nina Royal reported for the local Senior Lead Officers (SLOs). The feeding is still occurring at Sunland Park on Thursday. The SLO is working to handle that. Students are loitering at Jimmy Dean's and McDonalds. SLO Julie Carpenter's main concern is theft from autos. Traffic enforcement is increasing. Officer Carpenter put a speed trailer at Plainview and Foothill, which brought on a lot of citations.

The Safety Fair has been postponed until hopefully April. Sign up sheets were in the back of the room. There would be no booth fees.

CERT classes begin March 8th at 7pm the Elks Lodge in Tujunga.

Outreach: Mona Curry reported that there was insufficient meeting attendance at the January Outreach meeting to do official business. Ideas that had been discussed were: 1) A Farmers Market, 2) An International Fair at Sunland Park, 3) Movie in the Park, 4) Live Performance at Commerce Avenue.

Chairman, Ken McAlpine, promoted that more people are needed to come to the STNC meetings, partly to get good speakers, like Laura Chick.

District 3: Peter Babaian announced that the STNC meetings will start being recorded and broadcast on public access and leased access TV as a free service to the public. Someone volunteered to do this. Comcast has public TV space available and the person who will be doing the recordings has Channels 27 and 99 available free of charge. Deborah Ray announced that she and Peter are working on the following: 1) putting together postcards for District 3, 2) a Farmers market, 3) Street Fair at Commerce Avenue, 4) Neighborhood Watch, 5) Putting together a committee to help Commerce Avenue with the DAC and the Merchants Association.

Design Advisory Committee (DAC): John LaRocca, DAC Chairman, reported on the following projects reviewed by the DAC:

1) 6941 Greeley Street: This is a proposed 12 unit development. John has heard that there is currently a stone structure on the property, but that has not been verified. There are three large oak trees on the right of the property. The architect has ignored the DAC through the process until now when the permit is needed right away. This will be "for sale" housing, not apartments.

2) Viacom Transit Shelters: We are slated to get ten shelters. This is something that is already contracted with the City. Viacom will handle graffiti and trash pick up at the Shelters. This group will do a presentation at next month's meeting (March).

There was a question and answer period where the following things were discussed: John did not know if there was anything in the contract between Viacom and the City to extend

the lease duration if better structures were installed. This set of Transit Shelters is not supposed to have pay toilets installed in them. The DAC has a list of proposed locations for these structures. Regarding the Greeley subdivision project, apartments can be built without a zone change. The zone change is only needed to sell the units as condos. John made the point that selling the units as condos is better for the community than building apartment units. People were asked to come to the upcoming DAC meetings. John announced that if someone sees something that concerns them in the neighborhood, they can bring photos to the DAC meeting. It was suggested that people write to the Mayor regarding forcing people to go through Neighborhood Councils during the planning process. It was suggested that the STNC take a position to the Mayor on having plans go through Neighborhood Councils. If this were done, it would have to be at a future meeting.

Canyon Hills: Rhonda Herbel read her report on the Canyon Hills project. A copy of that report was provided to all attendees.

Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy, Council District 2: Dale announced that the next meeting on the Canyon Hills project would be February 16th at 6pm.

Kmart/Home Depot: Kmart closed months ago. Home Depot bought the lease and wants to build a 120,000 square foot new structure. They will need to provide more information with their permit paperwork. The community and the Council Office oppose a free standing Home Depot at that location. There was a question and answer period on this property. The present structure is approximately 100,000 square feet. The current zoning is footprint zoning (which means that it is zoned C2 for the building area and P for parking for the rest of the lot). Dale encouraged the attendees to channel their energy into the council office to help the property.

Canyon Hills: There are two recommendations from two different planning departments on this project. 1) 175 lot Ranchette subdivision with minimum of 5 acres for each home. No public owned open space. 2) 180-190 out of the 870 acres developed. The rest dedicated to open space. 280 clustered home project. This requires a zone change and a general plan amendment to allow clustering. Councilmember Wendy Greuel wants 85% open space, rather than the current approximately 70% proposed for open space. There was a question and answer period on this project. Dale did not think that the developer planned no streetlights for the project; however, it is possible to omit them from a project. The current design of the project includes public access from La Tuna Canyon Boulevard only. There would be a locked gated emergency access for the Fire Department at Inspiration and Verdugo Crestline. There would be no public access at that spot.

Verdugo Hills Golf Course: This property is located at Tujunga Canyon, La Tuna Canyon and Honolulu. There is a 400-600 unit project proposed for this property. There are three options for this project 1) cover all of the golf course area, 2) cover half of the golf course, 3) cover only the driving range with high-density housing. The developer asked if commercial property would be accepted and Dale told him no. There was a question and answer period. An attendee asked if the White Bird project passed would that give an automatic acceptance to the Golf Course project. Dale stated that a plan amendment for one project does not set a precedent for others that follow. They are separate legislative acts. Both properties

are hillside, but the characteristics of the properties are very different. There is no need to change the use of the golf course.

Ken announced the future meeting dates at the bottom of the program.

New Business

1: Canyon Hills Committee Motion (Rhonda Herbel):

Rhonda read a page of information supporting the motion that she made. Her motions was:

“I MOVE THAT the Board recognizes the infeasibility of the operation of the Canyon Hills committee, as specifically approved on December 8, 2004, and;

That the Board hereby separates the short-term, time-sensitive objectives from the longer-term objectives, and;

That the formation of a committee to monitor the implementation of project conditions and/or mitigation measures on behalf of the community is deferred until a final decision is made by the City of Los Angeles with regard to the Canyon Hills project, and;

That a transitional, temporary Ad-Hoc committee, comprised of a minimum of 3 and no more than 5 STNC Board members be specifically authorized to address the short-term and time-sensitive matters regarding the Canyon Hills project, including, but not necessarily limited to these representative tasks:

1. To attend the Council District Community Advisory meetings
2. To comment both verbally and in writing to the Council District on the merit of suggested adjustments or conditions to the Canyon Hills project in light of the STNC adopted position
3. To refer relevant matters to the Design Advisory Committee (DAC) for possible action by working team members in conjunction with the Council District Community Advisory meetings.
4. To attend public hearings on the Canyon Hills project and communicate points regarding the STNC adopted position on the Canyon Hills project proposal.
5. To transmit copies of the STNC previously adopted position regarding Canyon Hills to the City Planning Commission and other City departments as deemed appropriate
6. To request special meetings of the STNC Board, as necessary to approve additional correspondence to the City Planning Commission and other City departments as deemed appropriate
7. To make available information gathered about the ongoing discussions, hearings, and proposals regarding the Canyon Hills project.

And that Rhonda Herbel will Chair the committee, and committee members shall be appointed by the committee Chair and ratified by the STNC Executive Committee.

Motion by Rhonda Herbel.

Motion carried with two opposing votes.

2: **Opposition letter regarding half percent sales tax on ballot (Louise Clarke Stone)**

Motion: That the STNC send a letter to Councilmember Wendy Greuel advising our opposition to the half percent City only sales tax increase and our opposition to placing the half percent City only sales tax increase on the May 2005 ballot.

Motion by Louise Clarke Stone.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Ken took a poll of which board members had attended other STNC committee meetings since the January 2005 meeting. The Foothill Paper was mentioned again and it was suggested that it be utilized by the STNC for Outreach purposes. Nina Royal announced that she did not put in the paper that she is the STNC contact.

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 PM

Minutes taken by Ava Wrightsman, 2005 Recording Secretary

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council Calendar of Events

Mon., Feb. 21 st	7pm	DAC Meeting – Project Reviews Municipal Building
Sat., Feb. 26 th	10am-noon	DWP Trees for a Green LA Workshop Sylmar Park Recreation Center 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar
Wed., March 2 nd	6:30pm	Budget Meeting Municipal Building
Wed., March 2 nd	7pm	Executive Committee and Agenda Meeting Municipal Building
Mon., March 7 th	7pm	DAC Meeting – Project Reviews Municipal Building
Wed., March 9 th	7pm	STNC Monthly Meeting Mt. Gleason Middle School - Multi Purpose Room 10965 Mt. Gleason, Sunland (Handicap Access.)
Sat., March 12 th	8am-noon	Bulky Item Event Sponsored by Councilmember Wendy Greuel & the Bureau of Sanitation Location: Ralph’s Sun Valley, 8936 Glenoaks Blvd. Bring your items to the parking lot. For more info call (818) 352-3287 or (818) 755-7676
Sat., March 12 th	8:30am	Outreach Committee Meeting Denny’s
Thurs., March 17 th – Sat., Mar. 19 th	Only by appointment	Free Mobile Clinic – spay/neuter services for dogs and cats. Please call to schedule an appointment at (800) 772-9452. L.A. Animal Services Location: Pacoima: Target 9725 Laurel Canyon
Mon., March 21 st	7pm	DAC Planning Meeting – No project reviews Municipal Building



Planning Department Commission Office

200 North Spring Street, Room 532, City Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90012

March 8, 2005

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING: SELECTION CRITERIA SURVEY AND PUBLIC COMMENT

You are cordially invited to attend a commission meeting to comment on the selection criteria of the next director of the City's Planning Department. Representatives of the Mayor's Office and the City Personnel Department will be in attendance to make a presentation.

The matter will be one of the first items on the regular meeting agenda of the City Planning Commission and each of the 7 Area Planning Commissions throughout March at the commission meetings listed below. Since other items are on the commission agenda, speakers will be limited in time.

- **City Planning Commission**
March 10, 8:30 AM, Room 1010 City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, LA 90012
- **South Valley APC**
March 10, 4:30 PM, Marvin Braude San Fernando Valley Constituent Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, First Floor Meeting Room, Van Nuys, CA 91401
- **South LA APC**
March 15, 4:30 PM, Constituent Service Center, 8475 South Vermont Ave., LA 90044
- **Harbor APC**
March 15, 4:30 PM Harbor Commission Room, 2nd Floor, 425 South Palos Verdes Street, San Pedro, 90731
- **West LA APC**
March 16, 4:30 PM, Henry Medina West Los Angeles Parking Enforcement Facility, 2nd Floor, Roll Call Room, 111214 W. Exposition Blvd, LA 90064
- **North Valley APC**
March 17, 4:30 PM, Marvin Braude San Fernando Valley Constituent Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, First Floor Meeting Room, Van Nuys, 91401
- **Central APC**
March 22, 4:30 PM, Room 1010, City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, LA 90012
- **East LA APC**
March 23, 4:30 PM Ramona Hall Community Center, Main Hall, 4580 N. Figueroa Street, LA 90065
- **City Planning Commission**
March 31, 8:30 AM, Room 1010 City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., LA 90012

Full agendas for each meeting commission may be accessed at www.lacity.org.

Stone, Louise

From: Stone, Louise
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 9:42 AM
To: 'Ava'; 'McAlpine, Ken'; 'Ken McA'
Subject: Proposed Motion for STNC

Motion: I, Louise Clarke Stone, as STNC liaison to the NC/DWP Task Force, move that this council declare our intention to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Proposed language for the Minutes: Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) has (unanimously/majority) voted to declare their intention to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU), between the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power,

It is understood and agreed that the full text of the finalized MOU will be presented to the STNC for final approval prior to the STNC signing the actual MOU document by affixing thereon our official "Neighborhood Council/Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Memorandum of Understanding Signature Page".

Do not know if additional time will be needed for discussion of this motion.

~*****~*****~*****~*****~*****~*****~*****~

LOUISE CLARKE STONE
E-MAIL: LOUISE.STONE@MTO.COM
PHONE: 213/683-9100 EXT. 3244

WORK LIKE YOU DO NOT NEED THE MONEY;
LOVE LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN HURT;
AND
DANCE LIKE YOU DO WHEN NOBODY IS WATCHING.

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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS/LADWP PARTNERSHIP OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Jacque H. Lamishaw
President, Winnetka N.C.

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Jerry P. Schneider, Arroyo Seco
Jacqueline Hamilton, ECNANDC
Soledad Garcia, Coastal San Pedro
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FACILITATOR:
Pat Herrera Duran
e-mail: dakotahpat@sbcglobal.net
310-831-5202

February 10, 2005

Dear Neighborhood Council President, Board Member or Stakeholder:

STATUS UPDATE – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Because of the City wide back-lash at the lack of early notification of the proposal of an 18% rate hike in DWP charges in December of 2003, Neighborhood Council Board Liaisons, (Taskforce), met with DWP representatives for over 6 months last year developing a Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU), to be the defining statement of collaboration between the Neighborhood Councils and the LADWP. This MOU is the first of its kind in the history of the City of Los Angeles. Its approval will be a monumental occasion for the Neighborhood Councils, Stakeholders and the City.

In December, Mr. Jerry Gewe, DWP CEO, with whom we were meeting, retired and the new General Manager, Mr. Ron Deaton, was appointed. We have subsequently met with Mr. Deaton and he has responded positively to the MOU with an agreement to sign a two-year document.

To refresh your memory and understanding of the MOU and the way it is written, the primary benefits to all Neighborhood Councils and their stakeholders will be:

- Early notification and input on matters such as changes in delivery of services, rates, short and long term planning, significant improvement projects;
- Education and training regarding the organization and operation of LADWP as related to the needs of the consumers;
- Training and opportunity for involvement in the development of the LADWP budget;
- Ability to monitor the delivery of services and maintenance of LADWP property;
- Annual meetings in each of the seven Los Angeles Neighborhood Council areas where stakeholders can bring matters of concern directly to the attention of LADWP management.

Your help and support is imperative to the NCs to shape City history by supporting this unprecedented alliance. The MOU text is now being finalized and we request that you please add to your next meeting agenda the discussion of and possible action on this important NC/DWP Partnership. If you have a Public Works Committee, please also add this to their next agenda so they may be informed and bring the appropriate information to the full board. Please allow time on your agendas for your participating liaison or one of our Taskforce speakers to bring you up to date and answer questions.

You or your appropriate NC representative will receive a phone call in a day or so from your area Taskforce liaison in order to gain some information on the dates and times of your next meetings. We hope that you will welcome this call as your opportunity to become informed of the progress that has been made on behalf of all Neighborhood Councils and, indeed, all residents of the City of Los Angeles. Please contact me directly if you do not hear from our liaison within 5 days.

Thank you,

Jacque H. Lamishaw, Chair
NC/LADWP OUTREACH COMMITTEE

14

Los Angeles City Charter support information
for certified
Neighborhood Council action

Article IX of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles (the "City Charter") provides that Neighborhood Councils:

- 1) are entitled to provide input prior to decisions by City boards and commissions;¹
- 2) shall monitor the delivery of City services in their respective areas;²
- 3) are entitled to notice from the City as soon as practical so that Neighborhood Councils are afforded a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made;³

The Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council's desire to exercise their rights and responsibilities to have input into decisions by the _____ commission/department and to monitor the delivery of services by the _____ commission/department;

The _____ commission/department should desire to fulfill its obligations under the City Charter and ordinances to provide Neighborhood Councils with the opportunity for input into decisions by the _____ commission/department and to permit Neighborhood Councils to monitor the delivery of services by the _____ commission/department; and

The _____ commission/department and the Neighborhood Councils must, by virtue of the City Charter and its full intent/purpose, mutually agree that the People of the City of Los Angeles will benefit from increased communication and cooperation between the _____ commission/department and the Neighborhood Councils.

¹ City Charter, Article IX, section 907 ("The Regulations shall establish procedures for receiving input from neighborhood councils prior to decisions by the City Council City Council committees, and boards and commissions."); Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.809(f) (same).

² City Charter, Article IX, section 910 ("Neighborhood councils shall monitor the delivery of City services to their respective areas and have periodic meetings with responsible officials of City departments, subject to their reasonable availability."); Los Angeles Administrative Code section 22.813 (same).

³ City Charter, Article IX, section 907 ("The procedures shall include, but need not be limited to, notice to neighborhood councils as soon as practical and a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made."); Los Angeles Administrative Code section 22.809(f) (same); Ordinance 174006 ("Information from the City should be sent to certified neighborhood councils as soon as practical so that certified neighborhood councils are afforded as much opportunity as is practical to provide comment before decisions are made.").

**INTRA-CITY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN CERTIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS
AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER**

This two year Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MOU") is mutually agreed upon this ____ of _____, 2005 by and between the City of Los Angeles acting by and through the Department of Water and Power (collectively, "LADWP") and representatives of certified Neighborhood Councils.

RECITALS

[key to entire agreement]

Whereas LADWP and the Neighborhood Councils mutually agree that the People of the City of Los Angeles will benefit from increased communication and cooperation between LADWP and the Neighborhood Councils;

LADWP WILL DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. LADWP Liaisons: [section describes role of reps to work with NCs re requests for info/education, assistance, or service]

NOTIFICATION BY DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER. [permits NCs to have input into decisions, monitor delivery of services, and responses to requests for information. LADWP shall provide notification through one or more of the following methods; Electronic mail; U.S. mail; facsimile; or posting of material on LADWP website

LADWP will use its best efforts to provide notification concerning the following documents not less than 90 days before they are finalized by LADWP: Ten-Year Capital Improvement Program; Urban Water Management Plan; LADWP Power System 10-year Integrated Resource Plan (IRP); LADWP Power System Operations Business Plan that looks at near-term and long-term goals and objectives for replacing or upgrading aging distribution and transmission equipment and load growth improvements

Local Issues [LADWP and the Neighborhood Councils recognize that many issues regarding LADWP services will be specific to individual neighborhoods. For such local issues, the Neighborhood Council Representatives will contact their LADWP Liaison (NCs are requesting substantive response within 48 hours after in the inquiry is made); Planned Significant Projects within the City of Los Angeles ("Significant Projects" is defined as those projects, programs and activities that would require either an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in accordance with the California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and excludes programs, projects and activities that would qualify for either a simple negative declaration or a categorical exemption); Closing of Streets for 48 hours or more; Unplanned Major Disruption of Services Lasting Four (4) Hours Or More; Where there is an unplanned major disruption of services lasting four hours or more, LADWP will use its best efforts to notify the Neighborhood Council(s) in the affected area within two working days after the event/occurrence that caused the disruption of service; Major Customer Programs: (This includes, but is not limited to significant changes to customer programs such as "Green Power," renewable energy programs, water recycling programs, conservation programs); The LADWP Budget Process (relating to the development of its annual budget at the same time as LADWP provides notification to other reviewing agencies, boards or bodies, including Fall and Winter Budget Workshops (multi-year financial plans and the adopted budgets for the current fiscal year and comments, suggestions, and/or objections for consideration in the development of the upcoming fiscal year's budget).

2. **RATE ACTION**

3. **EDUCATION** (includes monthly electronic newsletter specifically focused on NC issues as they relate to LADWP; provides additional opportunity for NCs to have input on the content and focus of the newsletter; Topics to be covered may include the following local as well as city-wide issues, including but not limited to:

- Urban Water Management Plans
- Renewable Portfolio Standard
- Power Integrated Resource Management Plan
- Water Services' Ten-Year Capital Budget
- Greening of Transmission Right of Ways
- Overhead/Underground Conversion of Power Facilities
- Water and Electric Rates
- Recycled Water Development
- Water Conservation
- Energy Efficiency Programs
- Water Quality Issues
- Security Issues
- Recreational Use of LADWP Facilities
- Tree Planting Program

LADWP will make use of Channel 35, including broadcasting all meetings of the Board and broadcasting informational programs; LADWP Legislative Priorities. The activities of LADWP are governed by numerous federal, state and local statutes and regulations. Neighborhood Councils will be provided information relating to proposed changes to statutes and regulations that may affect LADWP upon request; and Educational Site

Visits (LADWP may invite members of Neighborhood Councils or stakeholders to participate in site visits to LADWP facilities. These site visits may include but are not limited to the following facilities/locations: Owens Valley, In-City Water -- Filtration Plant and other facilities and projects; In – City Power -- Scattergood Generating Station, Valley GS renewable generation facilities;

4. DELIVERY OF SERVICES [LADWP will discuss planned maintenance programs, improvements in service, and improvements in infrastructure within the Planning Area; performance evals.]
5. POLICY PLANNING: (provides NCs the opportunity to provide input before LADWP made decisions in connection with existing LADWP major policies or programs)

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS WILL DO THE FOLLOWING:

6. Neighborhood Council Representatives (designated b each NC;
7. NOTIFICATION BY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS ON LADWP ISSUES (provides for recognition by LADWP of official actions (motions) taken by certified NCs:
8. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL RESPONSE TO LADWP NOTIFICATIONS (restates the opportunity of NCs to provide input to LADWP before decisions are made)
9. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS' LADWP OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Each Neighborhood Council will independently decide whether to enter into this MOU. Due to the large number of Neighborhood Councils, it will be impractical for each Neighborhood Council to separately negotiate any modifications to the MOU with LADWP, and for LADWP to separately negotiate modifications with each Neighborhood Council. For this reason, each Neighborhood Council that enters into the MOU will be asked to separately agree to the appointment of a Neighborhood Councils' LADWP Oversight Committee.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

10. MODIFICATION OF MOU
The MOU may be modified by mutual agreement by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and the Neighborhood Councils' LADWP Oversight Committee. Either LADWP or the Neighborhood Councils' LADWP Oversight Committee may propose amendments. Both LADWP and the Neighborhood Councils' LADWP Oversight Committee agree to meet with each other within sixty days (60) after a modification to this MOU has been requested in writing.

Any modification must be in writing, and must be signed by both an authorized representative of LADWP after approval by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and an authorized representative of the Neighborhood Councils' LADWP Oversight Committee. A modification will not take effect until LADWP is notified that a majority of the Neighborhood Councils that have entered into the MOU and have agreed to and/or ratified the modification.

11. DURATION OF MOU [two (2) years -- This MOU can be extended in writing by mutual agreement of the parties.]

This MOU contains the full and final agreement of the parties. Each party was represented by legal counsel during the negotiation and execution of this MOU.

From: Stone, Louise
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 11:10 AM
Subject: Los Angeles Daily News

Los Angeles Daily News

Water use down, bills up
DWP got additional \$5 million in January

By Beth Barrett
Staff Writer

Thursday, February 24, 2005 - Record-shattering rainstorms have sharply cut water use in Los Angeles, but the Department of Water and Power has charged its customers millions of dollars more than a year ago, the Daily News learned Wednesday.

Responding to questions about the impact on DWP revenue because of people watering their lawns less and washing their cars less, utility officials offered the surprising answer that their customers won't catch a break.

Residents and businesses used 1.8 billion gallons less water this rainy January than the same month a year ago -- an 11 percent drop -- but paid \$5 million more for it, they said. That's because rates are 11 percent higher and the DWP is tacking on a surcharge to cover the higher prices it is paying because its own supply from the Owens Valley is dwindling.

"The reason that revenues were up while consumption is down is twofold: Part of it has to do with the security surcharge put in as part of the rate increase, and the other part was an increase in purchase order costs," said DWP Chief Financial Officer Ronald Vazquez.

Consumers ended up paying \$45.3 million for water last month versus \$40.3 million a year ago. Had the rains not come and consumption remained at last year's level, the DWP would have taken in \$2.1 million more in revenue for the purchase of additional water from the Metropolitan Water District, or a total \$7.1 million over January 2004 revenue, Vazquez said.

While an individual user's bill might differ, on average each person in Los Angeles ended up paying about \$1 more this January for water, or about \$4 more for a family of four.

The same factors are in play this month, with water use remaining low and charges remaining high, officials said.

San Fernando Valley residents might have gotten a bit more of a relative break, largely because of residents' generally larger yards, said Martin Adams, the DWP's director of water quality and operations.

The DWP's acting general manager, Henry Martinez, said the water hikes and pass-through fees to purchase water are enough to make up for the slide in demand and other foreseeable factors, and that no rate hike is planned. The DWP has a \$2.2 billion capital improvement plan through 2008. "I don't think we're ready to declare anything like a rate hike," Martinez said. "My perspective is not at this point do we have any concerns to raise rates yet."

Martinez called the winter unusual, and said the city should get some relief as the rainy season tapers off by

early April at the latest.

Los Angeles gets very little benefit from the rain from a utility standpoint because it doesn't have a large system of usable reservoirs or other storage mechanisms and has to rely on its own water from the Owens Valley -- more of which is being diverted to Mono Lake and for dust control -- or water purchases from the Metropolitan Water District.

Councilman Tony Cardenas, chairman of the Commerce, Energy & Natural Resources Committee, said the DWP shouldn't look for another rate hike without expecting tremendous scrutiny and an independent analysis. He said factors like the rainy winter are anomalies.

"The rain is a one-time situation that doesn't warrant a rate hike," Cardenas said.

He said rates are based on long-term considerations, not an isolated incident.

The DWP last year asked for an 18 percent increase over two years, which Cardenas and other council members opposed, prior to adopting the 11 percent, one-year hike in May.

While the DWP gained revenue despite the rain, the city's Recreation and Parks Department suffered at least \$20 million in weather damage to its various facilities, said General Manager Jon Mukri.

Whatever minimal savings might have been realized from not having to irrigate golf courses and parks was swamped by the damage to fire roads and camps in Griffith Park and elsewhere throughout the system.

"We might have saved pennies, but we lost millions," he said.

In addition to damage to roads and camps -- including an estimated \$800,000 just to do an engineering evaluation and minor repairs to Camp Hollywoodland, a girls camp in Griffith Park, the city has lost about \$3.1 million in fees from 63 days of golf-course closures since July, at about \$50,000 per day, he said.

The Griffith Park fire-road damage is particularly worrisome as the heavily vegetated hills soon will dry out, posing a fire danger.

"And I have to worry about West Nile virus" with all the sodden city properties, Mukri added.

Compounding the costs have been higher-than-usual electrical bills for dryers and pumps, as well as overtime pay for emergency work.

"We took a hit everywhere," Mukri said.

The DWP's power resources remain strong, and even with a less-than-normal snowpack in the Pacific Northwest, where hydroelectric plants supply added power, it will have plenty of electricity for the summer months, officials said.

In contrast, the natural-gas bill homeowners have been paying this winter has averaged \$90 a month, up from \$67 a month last winter, said Denise King, spokeswoman for The Gas Company.

"During the winter months when it is colder, we are seeing increased use of home furnaces to stay warm and dry and the furnace does account for more than half of natural-gas use in the winter months," King said. "We recommend customers reduce use of their furnaces by turning down their thermostats and laying down extra blankets at night.

"Natural-gas costs have remained high nationwide due to cold weather, tight supplies and increased demand. It's not just here locally, but natural-gas costs have been high."

For energy-saving tips and rebate information, log on to www.socalgas.com.

Staff Writer Troy Anderson contributed to this report.

Beth Barrett, (818) 713-3731 beth.barrett@dailynews.com

Los Angeles Daily News

Pork barrel raided to hire cops
Council pulls money from favorite causes

By Beth Barrett
Staff Writer

Thursday, February 24, 2005 - To hire more police officers, Los Angeles City Council members on Wednesday gave up nearly \$1 million in city funds that under past practice would have gone to their pet nonprofit organizations without competitive bidding.

Without discussion, the council -- which earlier this month voted not to put a half-percent sales-tax increase on the ballot in an attempt to raise \$200 million for public safety -- unanimously approved the shift of \$961,200 to the 6-month-old Police Hiring Special Fund. The council now has set aside a total of \$1.46 million, which is enough to hire about 14 of the 3,000 extra officers sought by Chief William Bratton.

Last year, the city notified 18 community-based organizations -- only one of them, Valley Family Tech Center in Pacoima, based in the San Fernando Valley -- that the funds previously penciled into a budget line item for them would no longer be guaranteed. Instead, they were told the council would decide later whether to appropriate the money and warned that none of the money would be available next year.

Dixon Slingerland, executive director of the Youth Policy Institute, which oversees Valley Family Tech Center's after-school programs, adult education and other services, said the organization didn't anticipate getting the \$50,000 it would have received under the old city system.

"There's not that much of an impact," he said. "We have a variety of other sources."

Most of the other community organizations involved also have alternate funding sources.

Councilwoman Wendy Greuel said these particular funds -- which make up a very small fraction of the total amount that nonprofit organizations get from the city through grants and other sources -- were never allocated fairly by geographic area or through a competitive process.

Last year, the council voted to create the Police Hiring Special Fund and found \$500,000 for it by consolidating the city's toll-free "800" phone numbers.

"Every nine (officers) helps, on top of the five (funded) from the past," Greuel said.

The special fund, which is in the final stages of being legally established by the City Attorney's Office, protects the money to hire more cops in the upcoming budget.

Five of the nonprofits affected by Wednesday's decision are in Councilman Ed Reyes' district, in the easterly downtown area.

Reyes said he was convinced that police are needed foremost to make sure communities are safe for the nonprofit groups that serve them.

"I think the need is pretty obvious. We need safer communities. We need people to feel safe as they're going to get services. It's painful. These are hard choices."

Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski, who pressed for the change, said there was "no fairness" as to why some nonprofits had been funded out of a catch-all \$85 million fund designated for "general city purposes."

For example, she said, while there are a number of Boys & Girls Club groups in the city, only the one in San Pedro had a \$100,000 allocation from the fund.

City Administrative Officer Bill Fujioka said the allocations were added by the City Council in the past to address specific problems, then annually continued with line-item funding as part of the attempt to solve "huge, unmet" needs in the city.

They were removed as line items in this year's budget in response, he said, to the council's desire for more budget transparency.

Beth Barrett, (818) 713-3731 beth.barrett@dailynews.com



WENDY GREUEL
COUNCILMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CITY HALL
200 N. Spring STREET
ROOM 430
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(213) 485-3391
FAX (213) 680-7895

NORTH HOLLYWOOD
6350 LAUREL CANYON BLVD., #201
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91606
(818) 755-7676
FAX (818) 755-7862

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA
7747 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD
TUJUNGA, CA 91042
(818) 352-3287
FAX (818) 352-8563

February 15, 2005

Mr. Michael Abbate
Home Depot USA, Inc.
3800 West Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92868

Re: Proposed Home Depot Store in Sunland, California

Dear Mr. Abbate:

I am a member of the Los Angeles City Council, and I represent the Sunland-Tujunga area where Home Depot proposes to locate a new store.

I understand that you plan to remodel or rebuild the former K-Mart building for use as a Home Depot. I also understand that you failed to consult with the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and my office before filing your application for a Project Permit Compliance. I cannot overstate how offensive your actions are to the Sunland-Tujunga community and to me.

Several months ago, my staff advised your consultants that a free-standing Home Depot on the K-Mart site was unacceptable and that the zone changes needed for a new building would be vigorously opposed. Your consultants were also advised that the people of Sunland-Tujunga are very reasonable and are likely to support a project that addresses real community needs such as a department store, movie theaters and the like.

My constituents play a critical role in land use decisions in my district. In fact, your consultants were told about a mixed use project where the community ultimately insisted that the developer build a project that was significantly *larger* than the project he originally proposed. That point was not missed by the consultants, because one of them attended the mixed use project's public hearing and saw, first hand, the kind of contribution this community can offer when it is involved in the process.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR: AUDITS AND GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE
MEMBER: PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE




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I want you to understand that, while there is still time to correct your course, you have made a very serious mistake. I have instructed my staff to use the full resources of my office and appropriate city departments to oppose your Project Permit Compliance on all legally recognizable grounds. That means that any project permit that may be issued will be appealed, and if necessary, I will bring the matter before the full City Council. At the same time, the community of Sunland-Tujunga is mobilizing to oppose the project, and I understand there are plans to lawfully picket your facility if it ever opens.

Having expressed my great displeasure with your actions to date, I see two ways in which Home Depot can deal with the matter: it can engage the Sunland-Tujunga community in a discussion of the project, or Home Depot can withdraw its application and abandon the project. Any other course will be met with maximum opposition.

I urge you to seriously consider these options.

Very truly yours,



Wendy Greuel
Councilmember, 2nd District
Los Angeles City Council



SENT 2/22/05 to Agent, owner, contact



DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

City Hall • 200 N. Spring Street, Room 763 • Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 2/22/005

Applicant's Agent: Scott Mommer 4630 W. Jacquelyn Ave. # 119, Fresno, CA 93722
Property Owner: Paul and Eleanor Sade, Trustees 700 S. Orange Ave. West Covina, CA 91790
Contact Person: John Parker, GLM Associates 1605 Astor Ave. Cambria, CA 93426
Case No. ENV-2005-3019 <i>Include this number on all responses to this correspondence.</i>
Site Address: 8040 Foothill Boulevard

APPLICATION PROCESSING SUSPENSION

During the processing of the above-numbered application, it was found that additional items need to be submitted. In conformance with the provisions of Section 19.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, the processing of your application will be suspended until the items listed below are submitted. Your cooperation in submitting these items is necessary to reactivate your case.

Environmental Clearance -

The Environmental Staff has reviewed the application for the above case and determined that the following additions and or corrections are necessary to process your application:

1. Submit a Master Land Use Permit Application that has a project description consistent with the Environmental Assessment Form. Currently, the Master Land Use lists the project being a conversion with no new construction, while the EAF describes demolition and new construction. The new form needs to be signed and notarized (including a notary stamp or seal) by the appropriate parties.
2. On the Environmental Assessment Form, fill-in the information in Section II, Existing Conditions and Section IV. Commercial Project. Currently, only some of the information requested is supplied by the applicant.
3. A notarized signature with a notary seal or stamp is required of the consultant or representative, in this case listed as John J. Parker.
4. Please provide 11" x 17" plot plans and one full size site and plot plan for the environmental clearance.
5. Be aware, that although your plans list a project note that the site plan and other plans are not precise, that any condition of the DIR and environmental clearance will be based on these plans and tied to them. If any corrections are needed to accurately represent the project, please submit them at this time.

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6. Supply a copy of the traffic study, if one was prepared.

7. Submit a radius map meeting the requirements of the City of Los Angeles and showing a radius to 500 feet. Radius Map requirement Guidelines are available from the Public Counter of the Department of Planning.

8. Submit mailing labels and a receipt from BTC for addresses within the 500 foot radius.

Mail or deliver amended or additional materials to:

Staff Name :

Susan Whisnant

Department of City Planning

6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 351

Los Angeles, CA 91401-2709

Phone : (818) 374-5044



SUNLAND-TUJUNGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 571, Tujunga, CA 91043

(818) 352-4433

March 2, 2005

Board of Directors
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
7747 Foothill Blvd., Suite 101
Tujunga, CA 91042

Re: Co-Sponsorship of 4th of July Fireworks with S-T Chamber of Commerce

Dear Board of Directors,

The Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce requests the opportunity to speak at the March 9, 2005 meeting to ask for the Neighborhood Council's co-sponsorship for the 4th of July Fireworks Show.

Last year you graciously helped to sponsor the event by paying \$4,400 for half of the expense of the fireworks display cost of \$8,800. The Chamber paid the \$4,400 balance plus an additional \$4,253 in expenses.

As the Chamber does not receive any type of subsidy for operations expense, we depend solely on membership dues and working on fund raising events. We want to do more than just make ends meet. We want to be able to give back to our Sunland-Tujunga community on an even larger scale – and would really like the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council to be our partner in this endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Moore
President

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NOTES TO 2004 FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. The Chamber had a net income for 2004 of \$430.36.
2. Had it not been for your co-sponsorship of \$4,400, (not reflected in these reports as you paid the invoice directly) we would have shown a loss of \$3,969.64.
3. This year we are not going to have snow at the 4th of July event in an effort to save the \$2800 in cost.
4. Our labor related expense of \$13,013 for the year is for a 16 hour work week only. We realize how important it is to expand our hours to 40 per week and are attempting to put together a working arrangement that may help the Chamber as well as the STNC.

12:19 PM

01/15/05

Cash Basis

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Profit & Loss YTD Comparison
December 2004

	Dec 04	Jan - Dec 04
Income		
4014 · Chamber Office Sign Donation	51.00	610.00
4030 · Membership Dues	540.00	11,830.00
4035 · Mixers Income	305.00	5,401.50
4040 · Interest Earned	8.48	102.60
4050 · Miscellaneous Income	0.00	88.44
4075 · Installation Income	1,225.00	1,645.00
4100 · Casino Night		
4105 · Auction	0.00	1,141.00
4110 · Cash Hat	0.00	510.00
4115 · Jail	0.00	68.35
4120 · Other	0.00	28.00
4130 · Script	0.00	160.00
4140 · Sponsors	0.00	1,200.00
4150 · Tickets	0.00	2,091.00
Total 4100 · Casino Night	0.00	5,198.35
4400 · Honorary Sheriff Race		
4410 · Entries Income	0.00	7,396.00
Total 4400 · Honorary Sheriff Race	0.00	7,396.00
4500 · 4th of July		
4515 · Sponsors	0.00	2,529.00
4518 · Special Support Donations	0.00	4,500.00
4520 · Ticket Sales	0.00	14,021.00
4528 · Raffle Revenue	0.00	21.00
4530 · Booth Sales-4th of July	0.00	75.00
Total 4500 · 4th of July	0.00	21,146.00
Total Income	2,129.48	53,417.89
Expense		
5000 · Salaries & Wages		
5005 · Staff Payroll	857.70	9,081.62
5010 · P/R Taxes - Federal Income	417.12	3,093.37
5015 · P/R Taxes - EDD	68.09	516.76
5025 · State Compensation Insurance	0.00	322.00
Total 5000 · Salaries & Wages	1,342.91	13,013.75
5100 · Office Rent	625.00	7,500.00
5103 · Chamber Office Sign	51.00	612.00
5105 · Telephone	68.83	877.48
5115 · Online Service	56.35	500.32
5120 · Insurance	0.00	500.00
5125 · Postage	0.00	802.00
5130 · P. O. Box Rent	90.00	90.00
5135 · Office Supplies	0.00	106.88
5140 · Bank Service Charges	0.00	36.00
5141 · Advertising	0.00	76.00
5147 · Tax Return Prep.	0.00	100.00
5148 · 199 Filing Fee	0.00	10.00
5149 · Web Site Expense	0.00	1,500.00
5150 · Printing and Reproduction		
5160 · Election Cards	0.00	30.10
5173 · Meeting Notices	30.09	30.09
5175 · Membership Cards & Books	0.00	59.22
Total 5150 · Printing and Reproduction	30.09	119.41
5190 · Plaques & Trophies	0.00	601.87
5195 · UC of C Membership Dues	0.00	300.00
5200 · Contributions & Donations	0.00	25.00
5210 · Repairs		
5225 · Equipment Repairs	0.00	223.92
Total 5210 · Repairs	0.00	223.92
5235 · C of C Representation Costs	0.00	165.00

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12:19 PM
 01/15/05
 Cash Basis

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Profit & Loss YTD Comparison
 December 2004

	Dec 04	Jan - Dec 04
5240 · Installation Expense		
5245 · Invitations & Tickets	0.00	30.09
5250 · Dinners	1,052.19	1,052.19
5260 · Other Expense	0.00	651.65
Total 5240 · Installation Expense	1,052.19	1,733.93
5275 · Mixers Expense		
5280 · Liquor Permit	0.00	129.50
5285 · Notice Cards	30.09	270.82
5290 · Supplies	0.00	957.08
5292 · Money Hat	0.00	250.00
5293 · Auction/Raffle Prizes	0.00	30.22
Total 5275 · Mixers Expense	30.09	1,637.62
5300 · Casino Night Expense		
5310 · Cash Hat	0.00	250.00
5315 · Employees	0.00	420.00
5320 · Food	0.00	327.27
5327 · Invitations Printing	0.00	30.09
5335 · Tables	0.00	736.00
5340 · Decorations	0.00	187.00
5345 · Elk's Club	0.00	1,229.59
5355 · Prizes	0.00	582.14
5357 · Supplies	0.00	32.47
Total 5300 · Casino Night Expense	0.00	3,794.56
5380 · Honorary Sheriff Race Exp.		
5386 · Sheriffs Race Proceeds	0.00	3,271.00
5390 · Plaques	0.00	109.33
5392 · Sheriff's Race Drawing Prizes	0.00	450.00
5396 · Race Tickets	0.00	123.19
Total 5380 · Honorary Sheriff Race Exp.	0.00	3,953.52
5600 · 4th of July Expense		
5609 · Advertising	0.00	573.43
5622 · Equipment Rental	0.00	325.00
5645 · Labor	0.00	290.95
5647 · Entertainment Expense	0.00	618.00
5652 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	239.19
5655 · Pyro Spect. - Fireworks	0.00	4,400.00
5666 · Raffle Prizes Expense	0.00	260.86
5667 · Trinkets for Sale	0.00	770.50
5668 · Security	0.00	200.00
5670 · Sign Supplies/Labor Exp.	0.00	1,104.38
5673 · Snow Related Expense	0.00	3,071.96
5675 · Start-up Money	0.00	2,700.00
5680 · Supplies	0.00	90.31
5687 · Wristbands	0.00	63.69
Total 5600 · 4th of July Expense	0.00	14,708.27
6000 · Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	3,346.46	52,987.53
Net Income	-1,216.98	430.36

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DRAFT ONLY

Date: March 9, 2005

From: STNC BOARD

To: Los Angeles City Planning Commission

Cc: Councilmember Wendy Greuel
PLUM Committee members:
Councilmember Ed Reyes
Councilmember Tony Cardenas
Councilmember Jack Weiss
Mayor James Hahn
Laura Chick, Controller
Supervisor Mike Antonovich
Congressman Brad Sherman
Congressman Adam Schiff

Re: Case No.: CPC 2004-4344 GPA/ZC
VTM No. 61672-1A
CEQA: EIR 2002-2481
Location: 7000-8000 La Tuna Canyon
Plan Area: Sunland-Tujunga-Lakeview Terrace – Shadow Hills –
East La Tuna Canyon

A. OVERVIEW:

The Board and stakeholders of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) have several serious concerns about the results of the Planning Commission hearing on February 24, 2005 regarding the Canyon Hills project. In general, the results - and the manner in which they were reached – blatantly illustrated that our community involvement was meaningless. This has significant implications for Neighborhood Councils and their charter-mandated role within the City.

Article IX of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles provides that Neighborhood Councils (1) are entitled to provide input prior to decisions by City boards and commissioners; and (2) shall monitor the delivery of city services in their respective areas. It was obvious in the Planning Commission proceedings that the STNC's concerns had been lost in the process as the hearing stages moved from the DAA to the Planning Commission.

The STNC submitted its position paper regarding Canyon Hills to the City in November 2004. In that detailed document (see enclosed copy) we specified

several concerns, asked relevant questions and offered eleven intelligent and well-reasoned recommendations. Why have NONE of our recommendations been given thoughtful consideration within the City Planning process?

It is reasonable to expect that City decision-makers demonstrate adequately to the community how and why they've made their decisions in light of community input and questions. When intelligent, well-researched, insightful recommendations and questions from the community are ignored, the Planning Commission sends a message that communities are wasting their time in attempting to ensure that the law is upheld, and that General and Community Plans are not eviscerated to benefit a single stakeholder.

Our position paper last November essentially called for accountability to the community within the City Planning process. We are still calling for such accountability.

B. KEY POINTS: The following points detail our major concerns regarding the decision:

- 1) We do not agree with, nor support, the decision made by the City Planning Commission at the February 24, 2005 hearing regarding the Canyon Hills project for the following reasons:
 - a. The Commission essentially ignored the vital research regarding the interpretation of the City's Slope Density Ordinance presented by Bill Eick and Don Keene, and corroborated by the experts Iacobellis & Associates. Only one member, Commissioner Schiff, was willing to thoughtfully consider the facts – but unfortunately his voice did not prevail.
 - i. Specifically, the research shows that the developer's use of 40-foot contour lines, when the law requires 25-foot contours, plus the misinterpretation of the Slope Density Ordinance, resulted in the developer claiming the right to nearly four times as many lots as the community's research yielded (280 lots vs. 71 lots).
 - b. Community members urged the Commission to at least allow the City Attorney to review the facts before the Commission reached its decision. This reasonable request was ignored.
 - c. Rather than facing the challenge to the City's historical and possibly incorrect interpretation of the Slope Density Ordinance, the Commission stood on tradition and took the easy way out by approving of the General Plan Amendment and Community Plan Amendment. This decision not only made the Slope Density Ordinance moot in its purpose to protect hillsides, but also served

to obliterate the process of practical community-involved planning while destroying public confidence in that same process. From the beginning, the community has requested the City merely stand behind its own laws and guidelines in the first place. If we all played by the same “rules”, then developers, communities and the City would be on a level playing field, as well as enjoy mutual social and economic benefits of reasonable predictability in the planning process. Obviously, this is not the case at present.

- d. The Commission’s approval of 230 clustered lots on the north side, per the zone changes, created new problems for the community:
 - i. Our Community Plan already allows for clustering in “naturally level areas” of a property. Clustering does not require any Plan amendments or zone changes. There are ways to cluster and meet Plan requirements which were not even considered. Why was such an alternative not required of the developer by the Commission?
 - ii. Even though the Planning Department staff pointed out that a significant increase in density diminishes the very benefit that clustering is designed to achieve, the Planning Commission ignored this cautionary advice.
 - iii. The Commission approved what can be interpreted as a minimum of 230 lots on the north side, and left the south side of the property undetermined and vulnerable to more development in excess of that allowed by our current General and Community Plans.
 - iv. The zone changes undermined our Community Plan’s emphasis on protecting and preserving our equestrian culture which is unique in the entire City of Los Angeles.
 - v. It was left undetermined as to whether sound walls or land berms would be used. As we all know, sound walls would undermine the Scenic Corridor protections.
 - vi. It was left undetermined as to how open space would be dedicated, especially in light of the General Plan amendment.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) We urge the Commission to require the City Attorney to review the legislative history and interpretation of the Slope Density Ordinance. We understand there are apparently multiple ways to interpret the Ordinance. However, if that is so, then a range of possible interpretations contradicts the purpose of a so-called “protective” Ordinance. If there are factors affecting the interpretation of which communities are not aware, then it is the duty of the City to be transparent and informative regarding these factors.

- 2) We urge the Commission to be transparent to the public regarding how and why it reached its decisions regarding Canyon Hills. Most of the Planning Commissioners and senior Planning Department staff did not expend effort to demonstrate adequate reasoning behind their specific responses nor the overall decision in light of community input and questions. For example:
 - a. On what basis is the clustering recommended by our Community Plan considered inadequate?
 - b. On what basis was it determined that the General Plan and Community Plan amendments were absolutely necessary?
- 3) We urge the Commission and all related City Planning departments to support reform of the Planning process through a joint effort of the City, Neighborhood Councils, developers and all stakeholders.

D. SUMMARY:

There are significant problems with the Los Angeles City Planning process. We see it is in need of serious reform. The Slope Density Ordinance affects the entire City, and its historical interpretation is *only one* of the indicators of significant problems. The Canyon Hills project is only one development - yet the protracted process it requires of all parties is repeated across the entire City hundreds of times – wasting the City's, the public's and the developers' time and money.

The STNC has already taken the lead in creating new ways to envision our own community planning, as well as collaborate creatively with developers, urban designers, property owners, business owners, environmentalists, our Council office and City departments. We have repeatedly stated publicly that we want to do our part to help alleviate the housing needs in the City – but not at the expense of our desperately needed open spaces – which are needed for the benefit of the entire City of Los Angeles. We have active committees dedicated to using innovation and collaboration across divergent interests to solve our community planning needs, which also benefit the entire City.

Our council office has supported us, and Councilmember Greuel's statement at the February 24th hearing says it best – "I have always said the residents of the Foothill community are unique for their involvement and if all neighborhoods were as active, this city would be in a much better place."

Now we need City Planning, the Planning Commission, and all related departments to join us in this collaborative effort.

The STNC will take the initiative to organize other Neighborhood Councils in the goal of reform of the City Planning process. We believe Neighborhood Councils

and communities have the right – just as property owners have their rights - to plan and shape their local environments in a balanced and fair manner. In addition, Neighborhood Councils are charter-mandated to “monitor the delivery of city services in their respective areas”, and we believe this includes the services of City Planning. We look forward to a future when those responsible for City Planning respect the volunteers throughout Los Angeles who love their neighborhoods enough to do the hard work needed for planning and building healthy communities.

Sincerely,

Ken McAlpine, Chairman

Enclosure: STNC position paper from November 2004.



February 22, 2005

Honorable Wendy Greuel
Councilmember, District 2
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 455
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Proper Calculations under Slope Density Ordinance
CPC 2004-4344 & CPC 2004-4345, Vesting Tentative Tract No. 61672
7000-8000 La Tuna Canyon Road

Dear Councilmember Greuel:

The Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council ("STNC") voted on February 22, 2005 to support Mr. William E. Eick's inquiry into the slope density calculations regarding the Canyon Hills project. As you know, Mr. Eick prepared a letter dated February 4, 2005 to the Deputy Advisory Agency and the Hearing Officer outlining specific concerns identified in a review of the available information regarding the slope density calculations.

With respect, the STNC also requests that you ask the Deputy Advisory Agency of the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning to review and reconsider the slope density calculations in light of all the facts and circumstances, and that you further request the Deputy Advisory Agency to specifically respond to each point of the inquiry by direct correspondence with the STNC.

Some of the reasons for this request are as follows:

1. Mr. Eick's analysis indicates that the developer's calculation which emerged just prior to the December 9, 2004 public hearing, indicating a substantial increase over that which was published in the EIR (roughly double), appears to have been erroneously determined. Mr. Eick's analysis indicates significantly fewer allowable units. (You will recall our concern for faithful compliance with the Slope Density Ordinance expressed in our unanimous Canyon Hills position voted November 17, 2004.)
2. Your goal to permanently preserve the greatest amount of open space further compels us to insist that valid policies and procedures regarding slope density are consistently enforced.

Honorable Wendy Greuel
Councilmember, District 2
City of Los Angeles
February 22, 2005
re: Proper Calculations under Slope Density Ordinance
Page 2

3. If erroneous slope density calculations are permitted, it will undermine both your goal for the greatest preservation of open space, and the protection of public safety in hillside areas.

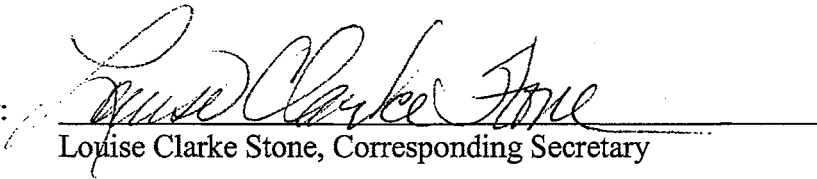
4. A proper slope density calculation is the cornerstone not only of an equitable decision on any single hillside project, but also of the perpetuation of good citywide policy.

We look forward to your response at the earliest possible opportunity.

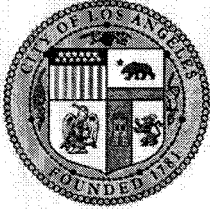
Sincerely,

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

By:


Louise Clarke Stone, Corresponding Secretary

cc: Ms. Emily Gabel-Luddy, Deputy Advisory Agency, Department of City Planning
Mr. Robert Dueñas, Hearing Officer, Department of City Planning



WENDY GREUEL
COUNCILMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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Tujunga, CA 91042
tel (818) 352-3287
fax (818) 352-8563

February 25, 2005

Dear Community Leader:

On Thursday, February 24, I testified before the Los Angeles City Planning Commission to state my strong opposition to the Canyon Hills project as proposed by the developer. My opposition is based on the extensive input I have received from people like you and my commitment to preserving as much open space as possible in perpetuity.

For your information, attached is a copy of my remarks, as prepared, for the Los Angeles City Planning Commission.

I cannot thank the community enough for their support and partnership. I have always said the residents of the Foothill community are unique for their involvement and if all neighborhoods were as active, this city would be in a much better place.

If it were possible to oppose any development in Canyon Hills believe me, I would do everything I could to stop any and all development. Unfortunately, I cannot. Just saying no would allow the current developer, or any future developer, to develop 169 large ranchettes that would consume the entire property and could easily be subdivided into smaller lots in the future. This is just too risky and Canyon Hills is too precious to leave its future in the hands of fate.

It has also been suggested that the clustering of RE-40 lots could be another option. This approach may actually protect less open space, consume land on both sides of the Foothill Freeway, require more grading and result in larger, more visible homes. We can do better to save more open space and save it in perpetuity.

I want to eliminate all development on the south side of the Foothill Freeway, except for the proposed equestrian center and I want to cluster a reasonable number of new lots adjacent to existing homes located north and east of the project.

I have been working closely with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and with community members like you and we agree that preserving the area South of the freeway is critical to maintaining the character of the community and protecting the quality of life of its residents. Preserving the Southside is critical to the future of this region.

Thank you again for your continued involvement and thank you to everyone who has fought to preserve the beautiful and unique open space of the Foothill community.

Sincerely,

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: AUDITS AND GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

VICE CHAIR: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS TAX REFORM

VICE CHAIR: RULES AND ELECTIONS

MEMBER: PERSONNEL, AD HOC RIVER COMMITTEE

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Remarks by Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, as prepared, for the Los Angeles City Planning Commission on Thursday, February 24, 2005:

Many communities across Los Angeles are struggling with the issue before all of us today – how do we protect and preserve open space in perpetuity? This is not an easy question given the many demands and competing interests. Families need homes to live in, but they also need parks, trails, green spaces and undeveloped open space to play.

John Muir, California's father of conservation, said it best: "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."

That is why I have always fought to preserve open space throughout the greater Sunland-Tujunga area.

I fought for the passage of the Scenic Mountain Preservation Plan, which protects the prominent ridgelines of the San Gabriel and Verdugo Mountains from development.

I directed the City of Los Angeles to buy 145 acres of land south of La Tuna Canyon that will be added to the Verdugo Mountain Park protecting that open space from any future development.

In Studio City, I fought to save the Golf & Tennis Recreational area from development because it provides much needed green space in a very dense and urban community.

And, in North Hollywood, I fought to rebuild and expand an existing park giving the children of that neighborhood a place to play and to enjoy the outdoors.

None of these victories, especially the Scenic Preservation Plan, would have been possible without the partnership and participation of the many community leaders here today who have invested countless hours. If there is one thing I am sure of, it is that the people of this community are committed and they care. The community wants to be involved in projects and I welcome this partnership. I will always work with this community and demand that they have a voice in the decision making process.

Last September, I sent a letter to the community leadership of each affected neighborhood seeking their input in evaluating this project and its alternatives. Many serious, legitimate concerns were raised, brought to my attention and thoroughly vetted through careful analyses and open discussion.

Because of the extensive input I have received from my community and because I am committed to preserving as much open space as possible in perpetuity, I OPPOSE the Canyon Hills project as presented by the developer.

There is no doubt in my mind about whether the Verdugo Mountains should be protected. The only question is, what is the best way to accomplish this goal?

Legitimate issues have been raised by my office and constituents regarding the proposed development. I want to outline for you today some of those issues:

FIRST – can we just say NO to any development? Can I simply oppose the zone changes and General Plan Amendments and require the applicant to develop a project that conforms to existing regulations?

If it were that easy, believe me, I would just say no. But, unfortunately, I cannot.

Just saying no would allow the current developer, or any future developer, to develop 169 large ranchettes that could be easily subdivided into smaller lots in the future. I have seen this occur in the valley over the years, even in equestrian areas - look at Chatsworth and Hidden Hills. And, the construction of streets and utility lines throughout the project will only hasten the transition to smaller lots. A “ranchette” subdivision will extend infrastructure to the edges of the Canyon Hills property, making it possible to develop adjoining open space properties.

In my heart I believe that we will doom this open space to a Glendale/Burbank-style development over the next few decades if the 169 lot subdivision is approved. Imagine, nearly 900 acres, privately owned with substantial sized lots today...that could be subdivided into smaller lots in the future? I believe we can NOT take this risk.

I am aware that in this era of term limits, I will not always be here to protect this precious land. So while I am here, I want to do everything I can to ensure that we permanently preserve as much open space as possible.

Canyon Hills is too precious to leave its future in the hands of fate.

SECOND – would the proposed zone changes and General Plan Amendments be precedent setting and open up other parts of the community to development?

Regardless of the outcome of this case, I do not believe that it will be precedent setting.

In speaking with the City Attorney, they have advised that each case stands on its own and will have to go through the required process of community input and legislative action by the City Council. Hillside projects, in particular, vary greatly in their details. Crucial factors like access, availability of utilities, topography and the like can easily justify vastly different treatment of other projects.

I reached my conclusions about this project because of the unique character of the Canyon Hills property. It is enormous, occupying nearly 3 miles on both sides of the Foothill Freeway scenic corridor. This space in particular is adjoining publicly owned open space on the south side and existing development on the north side.

THIRD – is the slope density calculation accurate?

Mr. Bill Eick and Mr. Don Keene sent a letter to the City Planning Commission raising several issues related to the city’s slope-density ordinance and the Planning Department’s interpretation of that ordinance. Because of the issues they raised, I asked the Planning Department to scrutinize and verify the accuracy of the submitted calculations.

FOURTH – are the options of large ranchettes, clustering, or a hybrid of RE-40 clustered lots viable?

After hundreds of meetings and countless conversations there have been many suggestions regarding possible alternatives to the proposed development. The three main options identified are large-lot ranchettes, clustering of RE40 lots and general clustering.

I do not support the large-lot ranchette alternative because it consumes all of the land and creates infrastructure throughout the property, which could support the development of adjoining properties. Large subdivisions or ranchettes can be easily subdivided into smaller lots in the future and in fact, this has already happened throughout the San Fernando Valley.

As I have said, Canyon Hills is too precious to leave its future in the hands of fate.

A second option is the clustering of RE-40 lots which is a hybrid approach that would allow clustering of lots without modifying the General Plan. This approach may actually protect less open space, consume land on both sides of the Foothill Freeway, require more grading and result in larger, more visible homes.

Finally, is the alternative of clustering. The developer is currently proposing a clustered project that would allow development of 280 lots on both the North and South side of the freeway.

We can do better. We can protect more open space and save it in perpetuity.

I want to eliminate all development on the south side of the Foothill Freeway, except for the proposed equestrian center. I want to cluster a reasonable number of new lots adjacent to existing homes located north and east of the project. The number of new lots should be the lowest number that enables us to preserve the entire south side while not neglecting viewshed, trails or design standards.

That is why I have been working so closely with the community and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. We all agree that preserving the Southside is critical to maintaining the character of this community and protecting the quality of life of its residents. Preserving the Southside is critical to the future of this region.

In reaching your [Planning Commission] determination as to whether development should be limited to the north side of the Foothill Freeway, I urge you to consider the following crucial facts:

The development on the south side of the proposed project is close to the Foothill Freeway and La Tuna Canyon Road scenic corridors, and at least half of the south side development is clearly visible from those corridors.

The lots on the south side were designed as RE20 lots. As such, they have larger building pads than the development on the north side, requiring more grading per lot than is needed on the north side.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy argues that there are important wildlife migration routes on the south side of the freeway, which connect through conservation easements in Shadow Hills to the Big Tujunga Wash.

The development on the south side requires two bridges across a blue line stream, which will affect important riparian habitat.

Elimination of south side development would preserve a significant number of oak trees that would be destroyed by south side development.

By virtue of its proximity to the developed area of La Tuna Canyon, traffic generated by south side development is likely to have a greater per unit impact on La Tuna Canyon residents than north side development.

Again, if I could simply say no, I would do everything I could to stop any and all development of this property. Because the preservation of open space in perpetuity has always been my top priority for the Foothill community, Canyon Hills has been one of the toughest issues I have faced.

I can't thank the community enough for their support and partnership. I have always said the residents of the Foothill community are unique for their involvement. If all neighborhoods were as active as the Foothill community, this city would be in a much better place.

So thank you again to the community.

Thank you to the Commission for what we trust will be your careful consideration of every issue the community has raised.

And thank you to everyone who has fought to preserve the beautiful and unique open space of the Foothill community.

Los Angeles Daily News

230-home hillside tract approved by planning panel

By Kerry Cavanaugh

Staff Writer

Thursday, February 24, 2005 - The city's Planning Commission recommended Thursday that Canyon Hills developer Rick Percell be able to build a 230-home gated community in the Verdugo Mountains.

That's 50 homes fewer than Percell sought. The commission also advised that all lots should be clustered north of the Foothill Freeway, instead of building on the more environmentally sensitive south side.

The project now goes to the City Council for approval.

Both the developer and project opponents expect to continue fighting over the number of hillside homes permitted in the subdivision.

"I am pleased that we have preserved the south side," said Councilwoman Wendy Greuel. "I'm reserving judgment on the north side proposal to review whether or not that is the lowest number we can legally have."

But Percell and his associate said they still have the right to build on the south side of the freeway. And the developer is still determined to get his 280 homes.

"We cut it down as much as we could. You would get more open space from this project for free than any other project," with the exception of Playa Vista, project attorney Jack Rubens told the planning commission.

However, project opponents were disturbed that the commission endorsed 230 homes. They believed roughly 70 homes can be built under current zoning, and they argued the commission should not allow a zone change that would permit more than three times as many homes on the steep hillsides.

"The recent rains and the (landslide) events in La Conchita show what happens when you build homes on extremely steep slopes," said Mary Benson, a Shadow Hills resident and member of the Tujunga Watershed Stakeholders.

Canyon Hills would be one of the largest single-family home developments the city has approved in recent years. The project includes 887 acres straddling the Foothill Freeway, of which the developer has proposed keeping 700 acres as open space.

Kerry Cavanaugh, (818) 713-3746
kerry.cavanaugh@dailynews.com

Los Angeles Daily News

Hillside moratorium

It's time the region rethinks its approach to developing on steep land

Thursday, February 24, 2005 - On a normal day, the shenanigans pulled by city planners and developers to increase the density of the proposed Canyon Hills subdivision on steep hillsides would be questionable.

But during a week when people all across Southern California have lost their homes, their livelihoods and even their lives in mudslides from crumbling, unstable hills, such an act seems dangerously negligent.

On steep hillsides like those that have collapsed in Woodland Hills, Malibu, Highland Park and Orange County, Los Angeles planners have given the developers of Canyon Hills approval to build 175 homes -- more than twice the amount developers originally thought they could build on the land next to the Foothill Freeway.

Had it not been for a few concerned residents, this situation might have never come to light. As it is, a Planning Department official said she will review the density of the development and reconsider the approval. While she's at it, perhaps she ought to review the density of *all* hillside developments in the city.

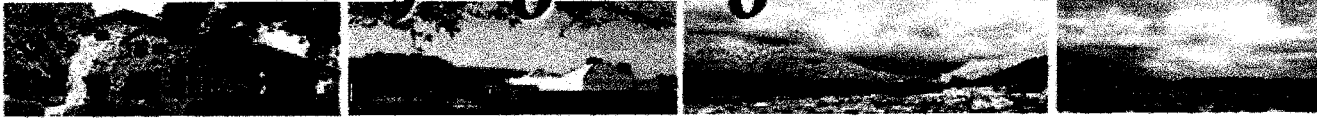
Considering the millions in property damage accrued in the past week, it's appropriate that city and county officials put an immediate halt to all new hillside development until it can be re-evaluated.

Such a moratorium would allow time for the region to rethink its entire approach to development of the fragile hillsides that all too often disintegrate under houses. The cost to the public and to homeowners is tremendous.

It's easy to write off the recent tragedies as a result of freak weather. But the truth is mudslides and land failures aren't aberrations in Southern California. They happen with regularity nearly every year, often caused by the common coupling of autumn brush fires and winter storms.

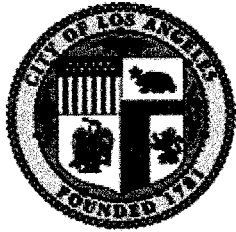
Like the residents themselves, our landscape is in constant motion, with earthquakes and mudslides only hastening the constant downward creep of our hillsides. The rules for permitting new building -- and rebuilding -- on steep hills must reflect this reality.

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND-TUJUNGA

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS



Neighborhood Councils were created as part of the 1999 Los Angeles Charter reform package to better connect residents with their city government. Neighborhood councils are direct links to our City Council and City Governmental departments.

The Board consists of community stakeholders who meet, discuss, and prepare presentations about local needs to Los Angeles City governing bodies. They work as an arm of the City to accomplish common goals for the City and the local community. Neighborhood Councils are groups of people coming together to influence City decisions that affect us within

our neighborhoods . . . where we live, work, play, shop, study, raise our families, and aim toward an improved community.

This neighborhood council is called the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC). STNC was Certified on May 27, 2003.

Neighborhood Councils ensure that our community has the opportunity to actively participate in City Government. If you live, work, own property or a business in Sunland Tujunga, you are a stakeholder. Join your fellow neighbors at our next meeting. Be part of this neighborhood council and help to change and empower our community.

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The organizing effort of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) started in November of 1999, with the guidance and encouragement of the Chamber of Commerce. The STNC was certified in May of 2003 by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) with bylaws that were approved by a vote of community members.

When we have an officially elected Board of Directors, we will be involved, in an advisory capacity, with city budget planning, city development plans, and we will be able to officially address our community and city issues with governmental officials and departments. The STNC will apply for the \$50,000 Neighborhood Council Funding annually to allocate to neighborhood projects and Council operations.

YOU, as an STNC stakeholder, may be elected to the Board, attend the public meetings to gain information, hear diverse opinions, and foremost, to express concerns, potential solutions and ideas to the STNC Board of Directors, who are empowered to take appropriate advisory action.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The elected Board will establish dates of the regular monthly meetings of the STNC. Currently we meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All stakeholders are encouraged to attend, participate, ask questions and speak. STNC regular meetings are open to the public and are subject to the Brown Act.

STNC STAKEHOLDERS

STNC community stakeholders are defined as individuals who live, work, or own property within the boundaries of the neighborhood council. Additionally, individuals who participate in educational and faith-based institutions, and community services, youth, business and special interest organizations that are located or that meet regularly in the community are considered to be community

[STNC Home](#)

[STNC Calendar](#)

[About STNC](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Design Advisory Committee \(DAC\)](#)
[Inclusionary Housing Ord.](#)
[Scenic Preservation Plan Or](#)

[STNC Board Members](#)

[STNC Meeting Minutes](#)

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

[Councilmember Wendy Gre](#)
[Sunland-Tujunga Field Office](#)

[DONE, Alliance & Additio](#)
[Information Links](#)

stakeholders.

NEED MORE INFO - Check out our [FAQs](#)

We want to hear from YOU! What's happening on your block? How can your neighborhood be improved? Become a Neighborhood Captain and let your voice be heard — Become Involved!
[STNC Interest Form](#) - PDF Format *

[Bylaws V2.72 Approved by DONE August 29, 2003](#) - PDF Format *

[Transcript of STNC Certification Hearing on May 27, 2003](#) - PDF Format *

[STNC 2003 Board Election Results](#)

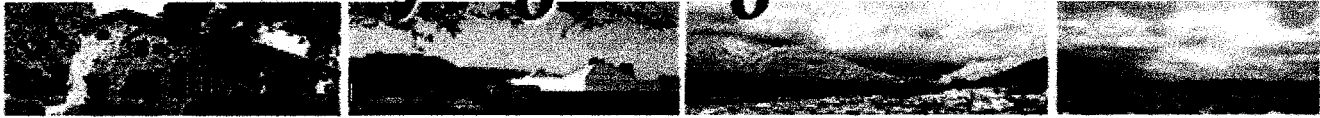
[STNC 2004 Board Members](#)

Join our Email Distribution. Please send your contact information to cindy@cmprintmail.com.

* **Requires Acrobat Reader.** [Download free Reader](#)

STNC • 7747 Foothill Blvd., Room 101, Tujunga, CA 91042 • (818) 951-7411 • e-mail cindy@cmprintma

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND-TUJUNGA

STNC NEWS

City Controller Laura Chick visits Sunland-Tujunga

At the Feb. 9 STNC meeting, we heard from Laura Chick on the latest of many audits her office has been performing. Ms. Chick is looking at everything from how the City is spending money by opening the City's books to expose and eliminate waste and fraud in City Government. Ms. Chick says "...we are the real bosses and she works for us." The status quo Downtown isn't happy with the shake-ups she's caused citing examples like the PR Firm for the DWP contracts were not billed correctly to the tune of a \$24 million difference and "why a captive audience like the DWP even needs such expensive PR?". Next on the Controller's list of audits will be the L.A. City Planning Department and will include case processing and Zoning. First though she will take customer surveys. She's anxious to hear from all of us as to what's not working well, what we look at, what we're hearing. The Controller also commented on the Commissions - Citizen Boards. They are very powerful and the Valley is not well represented, not enough women or people of color. They are no longer representative of L.A. today. "There's a lot more talent out there and its time for change" Ms. Chick said. She also complimented Wendy Greuel for leading the way (along with Cindy Misocowski) to clean up the Ethics Ordinance by disallowing Commissioners to raise money for candidates. Ms. Chick answered many questions from the audience including one from Steve Crouch where he asked her about her work on the PLUM Committee in 1997 having to do with the General Plan Amendment framework regarding "minimum density". Ms. Chick remembers this well. There's a lot more to what Controller Chick has been working on so visit her web site at <http://www.lacity.org/ctr/> for updates on audits she's completed and other info. The STNC thanks Laura Chick for taking time from her busy schedule to come out to Sunland-Tujunga. Her presentation was very inspiring to all and received great applause and interest.

Neighborhood Council Stops Mansionization

[STNC FAR Position Paper Dated August 12, 2004 - PDF Format *](#)

[FAR Planning Commission Approval January 2005 - PDF Format *](#)
[3/2/05 Status:Waiting Approval from City Attorney.](#)

Have you noticed the huge homes being built on small lots in Sunland-Tujunga in recent years? Its time for change. The community doesn't need or want this kind of ugly and out-of-place development. In order to preserve the character of the neighborhoods, the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council's Design Advisory Committee determined that Sunland-Tujunga required an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) to the reduce the permitted FAR (Floor Area Ratio).

Wendy Greuel's Planning Deputy, Dale Thrush provided consultation and technical advice to the committee throughout the process. A draft by DAC member Roberta Actor-Thomas following input from members of the Design Advisory Committee was presented to the STNC in June, 2004. The STNC voted to support the ICO to reduce the allowable FAR which will limit homes being built to 2400 square feet or 40% of the land area, whichever is larger. It also contains language for including two stories with provisions to avoid the "box" type of structure that is so unsuitable for this area. The ICO was presented to the City in late June for approval. At this time, the FAR has passed the Planning Commission and now moves on to the City Council to become an ordinance.

DWP & the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NC

Corresponding Secretary Louise Stone, STNC liaison on the MOU Task Force, reports that the task force has now presented a final draft to DWP's

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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

[Councilmember Wendy Greuel](#)
[Sunland-Tujunga Field Office](#)

[DONE, Alliance & Additional Information Links](#)

general manager, Ron Deaton. City Attorneys representing the neighborhood council task force are meeting with City Attorneys representing DWP to finalize the language. As far as the NC Task force is concerned, this is the final document and STNC will be discussing the MOU and doing a full report at our March 9 meeting at Mt. Gleason.

The NC Task Force consists of stakeholders throughout L.A. representing most of the neighborhood councils in the City. What does this mean for you? Your Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council is on top of the issues that affect you the most, including making sure that those precious City services are uniformly available to our community. This all started more than 12 months ago, when the DWP wanted that 18% rate hike, and STNC, along with a few other neighborhood councils, went to City Council asking "why?" STNC is working for you.

* Requires Acrobat Reader. [Download free Reader](#)

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Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



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Overview of “Sunland-Tujunga VISION 2020” (3/05)

#1 - What is “Sunland-Tujunga VISION 2020”?

- **A proactive approach** to looking 15 years ahead and planning a beautiful, well-designed, and economically-feasible future for our Community.
- **A road map** to help us bring our Community Plan to life in tangible ways, stage by stage, over time – including:
 - A “small town” feel and a “walking community”.
 - Emphasis on our historical & cultural resources.
 - Protecting our open spaces and scenic beauty.
 - “Mixed-use” housing along transportation corridors.
 - More trees, flowers, parks, fountains and gathering places.
 - Creating aesthetic design and color.
 - Eliminating visual blight, trash and unsightliness.
 - Charming restaurants and shops.
 - Slow growth – so that we do not become a Valencia!
 - And many other wonderful ideas from the Community.
- **A way to create greater collaboration** between all stakeholders – residents, business owners, conservationists, developers, and all members of the Community.
A tangible “Vision” and Plan make the difference!

#2 – How is “Sunland-Tujunga VISION 2020” moving forward?

- **In January 2004**, the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) had a new Board of Directors who wanted to *ensure their strategic plans and budgeting were in sync and aligned with the Community's needs.*
- Therefore, the following has happened:
 - **April-May 2004** – a Community Survey was sent to 16,562 residences.
 - **April 27, 2004** – a Town Hall meeting was held.
 - **June 9, 2004** - Results from these events were presented to the Community, revealing Sunland-Tujunga’s **#1 priority Goal is to “Improve Community Appearance”**. The STNC took action on the Community’s priorities – including hiring an urban design consulting firm
 - **June 12, 2004** – Firms were reviewed, & MDA Johnson Favaro was selected.
 - **June 22, 2004** – D.O.N.E. approved the “STV 2020” initiative.
 - **July 2004** – Launched initiative for community-wide involvement & Phase I.
 - **Aug-Nov 2004** – Coordinated Steering Committee structure, standards & goals.
 - **Dec 2004** – MDA Johnson Favaro completed Phase I plan for Commerce.
 - **Jan-April 2005** – Develop “promotional kit” to seek funding for S-T Master Plan.

#3 – How can you participate?

Stay informed: Attend meetings, see STNC website (see above); ask questions!
Share your ideas – contact the STNC; call/write Project Liaison, Julianne Maurseth at 818/352-3651; jem@awakeatwork.com. **Volunteer** to help!